

ANOTHER SIX GOSFORD NURSES GRADUATE AS SISTERS

Maintaining Gosford District Hospital's record of no failures, six more nurses have graduated as Sisters under the tuition of Training Sister Mathews.

The new Sisters are Suzanne Kerr, Rhonda F. Beazley, Joyce M. Austen, Daisy M. Wallace, Helen J. Gow and Maureen J. Roberts.

The graduates received their badges and certificates at a special graduation ceremony held at the old nurses home on Friday, December 3.

About 100 invited guests attended the function and saw the Chairman of the Board (Mr. R. G. Mathews) and Matron Inskip make the above presentations.

In accordance with usual custom the president of Gosford District Hospital Auxiliary (Mrs. Wicks) presented the Sisters with their first veils.

HOUSE PRIZES

During the function house prizes were also awarded, the recipients being as follows:

Finals Average: 1st prize (81½%) Miss Suzanne Kerr.

Finals General Nursing: 1st Prize (88%) Miss Maureen Roberts.

Medical Nursing: 1st Prize (81%) Miss Dianne Phillips.

2nd Year Practical Nursing: 1st Prize (92%) Nurse Jennifer O'Neill.

1st Year Practical Nursing: 1st Prize (100%) Nurses Helen Westerman and Ellen Robinson.

Anatomy and Physiology: 1st Prize (74%) Nurse Maria Keetman.

Bacteriology: 1st Prize (93%) Nurse Magdeline Ho.

Personal and Communal Health: 1st Prize (90%) Nurse Maria Keetman.

During his interesting address, the chairman (Mr. Mathews) mentioned many facets of hospitalisation, and referred particularly to the broadening of services that would follow the completion of the hospital's new wing.

Mr. Mathews outlined a number of the features of the recently released Starr Committee's report on hospitalisation and also discussed some of the points in Dr. Sach's report on the care of the aged. (The Woy Woy Herald hopes to deal with these two reports at a later date.)

In the matter of finances, Mr. Mathews said that income from lotteries diverted to hospitals last financial year amounted to about £5½m, whilst the expenditure by the State amounted to £24m. Fees paid by patients totalled only £21m.

Mr. Mathews said it was his forecast that there would need to be some alteration in the funding of hospitals.

WAR HEROINE GUEST SPEAKER

A highlight of the evening was the appearance of Miss E. Savage as guest speaker.

Miss Rankin is matron of the Rankin Park Chest Hospital at New Lambton, Newcastle.

This well known nurse enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1941 and served for a time on the Netherlands hospital ship "Oranje".

In March, 1943, was posted for duty on the Australian hospital ship "Centaur".

She was a member of the nursing staff of this ship when it was sunk in May, 1943, as the result of an explosion whilst enroute to New Guinea to embark wounded servicemen to Australia.

She was the sole survivor of the twelve officers of the Australian Army Nursing Service on board. Although suffering severe injuries herself she displayed great heroism whilst floating on a raft awaiting rescue, attending to wounds and burns sustained by the survivors.

GEORGE MEDAL

For this Sister Savage was awarded the George Medal.

In 1947 she was awarded a Florence Nightingale Memorial Scholarship and studied Hospital Administration at the Royal College of Nursing, London, and returned to the staff of the Royal Newcastle Hospital.

Miss Savage is a Fel-

her main theme being the important part kindness, tolerance and understanding played in the treatment of patients.

In her general remarks, Matron Savage said not many years would pass before Gosford had a hospital comparable to the best in Sydney.

"It must be very gratifying to the citizens to know they have such an institution in their midst," she said.

Sister Kerr extended thanks on behalf of herself and the graduates to all who had assisted them to succeed in their training.

Nurse Partridge was chosen to present Matron Savage with a small gift as a memento of her visit.

The enjoyment of the evening was greatly added to by vocal and instrumental items provided by Mary Ann and Jean Spence and Christine Durrell.

The function concluded with a delicious supper.